

FISHERY STOCK ASSESSMENT SCIENCE PROGRAM REVIEW

I am writing to invite your participation in a review of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Office of Science and Technology's stock assessment program. The review meeting will take place at the Silver Spring Civic Building in Silver Spring, MD on September 9-12, 2014. Similar reviews are being carried out at each of the NMFS regional science centers this year as part of a multi-year process to evaluate many aspects of our science enterprise.

A team of national and international experts will conduct the upcoming peer review. The reviewers will consider the suite of assessment-related activities, organization and management of these activities, and future directions for the Office of Science and Technology's stock assessment program. Opportunities for input by members of the public will be provided each day. Information on the meeting and how to participate, background documents, a list of panelists, the agenda, and presentations prepared for the review will be available on the Office of Science and Technology's website at: <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/science-program-review/>.

Reviewers' reports and the office's responses will also be made available at this website. Coordination of a national stock assessment program is fundamental to maintaining, advancing, and communicating the science related to NMFS' stock assessments. I expect this review will highlight some of our strengths but also identify areas where improvement is merited, helping us to chart a course for further advancement. I consider peer reviews to be necessary steps in evaluating our science and in the process of change as we adapt to new challenges and new ideas.

I hope that you can find time to join us in Silver Spring for the review or to visit our website to look over the review material.

Sincerely,



Ned Cyr, Ph.D.
Director, Office of Science and Technology